

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KHARTO 02671 091217Z

44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 /015 W
----- 040369

P R 091151Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2530

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 2671

STATE FOR AF/EX

NAIROBI FOR RCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM, AMGT

SUBJECT: TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD

REF: (A) STATE 222187; (B) KHARTOUM 2598

1. OUR PREDICTIONS OF POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF SUFFICIENT POST FUNDS FOR PURCHASE OF REQUIRED SWITCHBOARD EQUIPMENT NOT MATERIALIZING.

WE DID NOT HOWEVER EXPECT THE TOTAL COST OF EQUIPMENT TO AMOUNT TO NEARLY \$25,000. UNDERSTAND DEPARTMENT'S INABILITY TO PROVIDE FINANCING FROM LIMITED COMMUNICATIONS FUNDING.

2. FOR AF/EX: CAN BUREAU PROVIDE FUNDING FOR PURCHASE OF NEW SWITCHBOARD? PRESENT SWITCHBOARD FAILING REGULARLY, AT LEAST TWICE WEEKLY AND USUALLY FOR ENTIRE WORK DAY WITH EACH FAILURE. LOCAL MAINTENANCE, DESPITE REPAIR CONTRACT, INADQUATE. WHEN SIWTCBOARD FAILS NEITHER OUTSIDE NOR INTERNAL CALLS CAN BE MADE. FYI, SWITCHBOARD INHERITED AT NO COST FROM USAID IN KAMPALA IN JUNE 1973 AND APPARENTLY HAD EXCEEDED ITS LIFE EXPECTANCY PRIOR TO INSTALLATION HERE. SINCE PROBLEM IS CRITICAL PERHAPS OTHER FUNDING SOURCES AVAILABLE, SUCH AS UTILIZATION OF PROCEEDS OF SALE MONEY. PLEASE ADVISE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KHARTO02671
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760340-0979
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760978/aaaacoyb.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 222187, 76 KHARTOUM 2598
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blackch
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAR 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Mar-2001 by chicheje>; APPROVED <26-Mar-2001 by blackch>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD
TAGS: ACOM, AMGT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006